

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the instant Application.

1. (currently amended) A process for the separation of separating purified hemicellulose from insoluble cellulose and cellulose-hemicellulose complexes in caustic liquor from solubilizing fiber with ~~alkali extraction of hemicellulose from fiber~~ comprising the steps of adding alcohol to the caustic liquor to precipitate the hemicellulose so that the hemicellulose floats on top of the caustic liquor and alcohol and density separation of the floating hemicellulose precipitate from the insoluble cellulose and cellulose-hemicellulose complexes in caustic liquor simultaneously ~~or about~~ simultaneously with the precipitation of the hemicellulose wherein the ratio of alcohol to water in the caustic liquor is about 3:1 to about 9:1.
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the alkali extraction is performed at a moisture content from about 10% to about 60% with agitation at speeds of about 300 rpm to about 2,000 rpm.

6. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, tertiary butyl alcohol, acetone and combinations thereof.
7. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the density separation occurs in a cyclone or a decanter.
8. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the fiber is spent flake fiber or corn hull fiber.
9. (original) The process of Claim 8 wherein the corn hull fiber is selected from the group consisting of crude fiber, dietary fiber and combinations thereof.
10. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the alkali is an alkali metal hydroxide.
11. (original) The process of Claim 10 wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and combinations thereof.
12. (original) The process of Claim 1 comprising the additional step of adding peroxide.
13. (original) The process of Claim 12 wherein the peroxide is added during the alkali extraction.
14. (original) A purified hemicellulose obtained by the process of Claim 1.
15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A process for separating purified hemicellulose ~~from and insoluble components including at least a cellulose and a cellulose-hemicellulose complex~~ from in caustic liquor from solubilizing fiber with alkali comprising ~~of the~~ steps of a) adding an alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethanol and methanol ~~in solution with water having an alcohol to water ratio of about 1:1 to about 20:1~~ to the caustic liquor wherein the ratio of alcohol to water is about 3:1 to about 9:1 to precipitate the hemicellulose so that the hemicellulose floats on top of the caustic liquor and alcohol, b) density separation of the floating hemicellulose precipitate ~~from the caustic liquor~~ in a density separation device simultaneously ~~or about simultaneously~~ with the precipitation of the hemicellulose, and c) removal of the caustic liquor from the density separation device ~~and d) a second separation step to remove the insoluble components from the caustic liquor.~~
17. (canceled)
18. (currently amended) A process for separating purified hemicellulose from insoluble cellulose and cellulose-hemicellulose complexes in caustic liquor from solubilizing fiber with alkali ~~extraction of hemicellulose from fiber~~ comprising the steps of adding alcohol to the caustic liquor to cause the hemicellulose to float on top of the caustic liquor and alcohol and separating the floating hemicellulose before it absorbs sufficient water to cause it to swell and settle into

the caustic liquor wherein the ratio of alcohol to water in the caustic liquor is about 3:1 to about 9:1.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)